

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this amendment, claims 20-25, 28 and 29 are amended, thereby leaving claims 26, 27 and 30-33 unchanged. Claims 1-19 were canceled in a previous amendment. Applicant thanks the examiner for the claim presented in the Office action as patentably distinct from the prior art.

Claims 21, 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph for failing to comply with the written description. Claim 21 has been amended to include the term “a positive engagement” in place of the term “a form-fitting connection”. Support for the term “a positive engagement” can be found in original claims 4 and 11, and paragraphs 0003, 0005 and 00022 of the specification.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. The term “nose” had been replaced with “lug”, and the term “crosspiece” had been replaced with “web”. Claims 22, 23, 25, 28 and 29 are amended to use the original terminology of the specification, namely, “nose” and “crosspiece”.

Claims 20-26 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by JP 2002-2455.

Claims 20-26 and 28-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Tsukamoto et al. (US 2002/0152575).

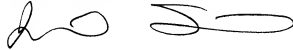
Claims 27 and 31-33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over either JP 2002-2566 or Tsukamoto et al. in view of Rogers et al. (US 4,318,201).

Claim 20 has been amended to conform to the allowable claim presented in the Office action. Claims 21-23, 28 and 29 depend from claim 20 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

Claim 24 has been amended to conform to the allowable claim presented in the Office action. Claims 25-27 and 30-33 depend from claim 24 and are allowable for the same and other reasons.

In view of the foregoing, entry of the above amendment and allowance of claims 20-33 are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal stroke.

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